

Standard 6-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of life in ancient classical civilizations and their contribution to the modern world.

6.2.2 Summarize the significant political and cultural features of the classical Greek civilization, including the concept of citizenship and the early forms of democratic government in Athens; the role of Alexander the Great as a political and military leader; and the contributions of Socrates, Plato, Archimedes, Aristotle, and others in philosophy, architecture, literature, the arts, science, and mathematics. (H, G, P)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been taught about classical Greek civilization.

In Global Studies, students will explain the influence of Athenian government and philosophy on other civilizations (GS-1.1).

It is essential for students to identify and describe key components of ancient Greek civilization. Students should have an understanding of the development of Athenian democracy including the role of citizenship and how citizens were defined. Students should be familiar with Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle and their writings on Athenian government. While students do not need to be familiar with the governments of other city-states they should understand that Athenian democracy was unique among the Greek city-states and developed over centuries. They should recognize critical features such as direct democracy, public debate, and limited citizenship that formulated Athenian democracy. It's important for students to understand that modern democracy is rooted in, yet different from the Athenian model. Students should have an understanding of the city-state as the primary political expression of ancient Greece. While city-states did enter alliances (such as the Delian League) there was an intense sense of independence among the Greek city-states. Students should understand that it was Philip II of Macedonian who conquered and "united" the Greek city-states and it was his son, Alexander, who solidified and expanded this rule. The students should be able to identify the expansion of Alexander's empire into Africa, Central and Southern Asia, through military conquests. They should also be able to describe the importance of Alexander's conquest in spreading Greek culture and ideas (known as Hellenistic). Finally students should have an understanding of significant cultural expressions in ancient Greece. Major Greek writings often centered on history, philosophy, or mythology. Genres such as tragedy and comedy also found great expression in Greek writing and theatre. Students should also be able to associate famous Greeks and the field(s) with which they are associated. These include Socrates – philosophy, government, Socratic questioning; Plato and Aristotle – political philosophy; Archimedes – mathematics and science; and Pythagoras - mathematics. Students should be aware that Greek architecture found its greatest expression in the building of temples and its greatest accomplishment in the development of columns.

It is not essential for students to know the specific teachings or accomplishments of Socrates, Plato, Archimedes, or Aristotle. Students also do not need to know the biography of Alexander or others in this indicator. While it's important that students be able to understand the basic expression of Athenian democracy they do not need to know the structure and offices associated with the government.

Assessment Guidelines: The objective of this indicator is to **summarize** significant political and cultural contributions of ancient Greece. A primary focus should be on the development of Athenian democracy and its characteristics. Appropriate assessment should require students to **compare** Athenian democracy to its contemporary expression. It would be fitting for students to utilize maps to **illustrate** the expansion of Alexander's empire and the spread of Greek culture. Suitable assessment could also call for students to **describe** the relationship between citizenship and Athenian democracy. Assessment should require students to **demonstrate an understanding** of Greek cultural contributions and the men/fields in which these significant contributions were made.